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THE BIRTH-PLACE OF BISHOP MADISON.

By CHARLES E. KEMPER.

The Virginia historians all unite in saying that Bishop Madison was born in 1749 at Madison Hall near present Port Republic in Rockingham Co., Va., but there is evidence which tends to show conclusively that such was not the case.

John Madison, father of the Bishop was appointed the first clerk of Augusta Co., Va., in 1745, and in 1746 a court order was entered ordering a road to be cleared from "The court house to the clerk's office."

In 1745 (Dec. 12) John Madison bought from Moses Thompson 1041 acres of land, and in 1752 John Madison sold 731 acres of this land to Robert McClenahan, and it is described as lying "on the north branch of Christian's Creek." In 1763 Robert McClenahan sold a part of this land to John McClenahan, Sr., his son, and his son, John inherited the remainder of the land from his father. On April 13, 1751, John Madison bought from Henry Downs (?) 1010 acres of land, which had first been granted to Jacob Stover, a part of the upper grant of 5000 acres to Jacob Stover, which is well known. This was the Port Republic land and Madison Hall was built on it, and there Bishop Madison grew to manhood, but the evidence of the records quoted clearly shows that Bishop Madison was born in the present county of Augusta, Va., on the north branch of Christian's Creek, in the vicinity of the present village of Barterbrook, about 6 miles south of Staunton. John Madison was clearly living at the place in 1746 and owned the clerk's office at his house and he did not buy the Port Republic land until April 13, 1751, so if Bishop Madison was born in 1749, he was born at the place stated and not at Port Republic.

There is an old abandoned road which leaves the Lexington road some distance south of Staunton and goes down to the north branch of Christian's Creek. This was evidently the old road to the clerk's office. The Madison lands on Christian's Creek have been owned in recent years by the Gilkeson estate, by the McClanahans, and by the McCombs, and the old road mentioned en-

tered the Madison land at the Gilkeson place, and Mr. S. M. Donald the postmaster of Staunton, Va., informs me that near the Gilkeson place an old log structure stood years ago. This was in all probability the birth place of Bishop Madison, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of present Barterbrook, Augusta Co., Va., and the house stood on the Gilkeson place. The Madison lands lay in the fork of the north and south branches of Christian's Creek in the present county of Augusta. I hope to collect the facts still more fully but the facts are so interesting that I send them to you in this way, at the present time in order to prevent any possibility of their being lost.

Charles E. Kemper.

March 8, 1922.

I wish to add this to the information recently sent you concerning the birthplace of Bishop Madison. As stated, he was born on the Gilkeson estate on Christian's Creek about 6 miles south of Staunton, Va. This was the home of his father John Madison until 1751, when he acquired the Port Republic land and moved to that place. That portion of the Gilkeson estate on which the Madison house stood is now owned by Mrs. Annie E. Rawlinson. This was undoubtedly the birthplace of Bishop Madison. The house in which he was born was a log structure and Mr. J. N. McFarland, the county treasurer of Augusta Co., informs me that he was a visitor in the old Madison house just prior to the civil war in 1859 or 1860.

Charles E. Kemper.

March 14, 1922.